



## GoGo Tours brings 400 travel agents and vendors to Aruba for their Learning Conference 2006

GoGo Tours, part of the LibGo Travel conglomerate conducted their annual Learning Conference on Aruba over the past weekend for the second time in the twenty years the conferences have existed. According to Lisa Marie Domingo, Manager of Special Events for GoGo, the agents and vendors that came to Aruba for the event expressed that it was the "best they have seen in years." Lisa Marie particularly complimented the staff of the Renaissance Resort for their "impeccable service."

GoGo Tours books over three million overnight stays annually, and Aruba is their third most popular destination in the Caribbean. The whirlwind of events the agents attended culminated in a marketplace at the Renaissance Convention Center and gala farewell dinner at Renaissance Island on Sunday afternoon and evening.

The Marketplace featured not only information about Aruba's resort facilities and the various activities offered by the members of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association (AHATA,) but also the dozens of resorts in the Caribbean and United States that are in partnership with GoGo Tours. Most popular among them were the Marriott Resort's Wheel of Fortune and Brenden Paul, Elvis impersonator *extraordinaire*. He informed THE NEWS that they even have an "ordained Elvis" to perform the ceremonies at his Graceland Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas!

A cocktail hour reception in the Renaissance Fiesta Garden hosted by Sol Melia resorts preceded the agents being transported to the resort's private island by the sailboats of De Palm Tours. During the elegant farewell dinner, Minister of Tourism Edison Brieson and Myrna Jansen, Director of the Aruba Tourism Authority expressed particular thanks to Laurie Palumbo, Senior Vice President of GoGo Tours, along with Mark Benson, Senior Director of Caribbean Marketing, while presenting them with a lovely memento of their time in Aruba. The GoGo executives expressed their gratitude in return for the superlative effort made by the staff of the ATA, the Renaissance Resort, and the Hospitality Management students of the University of Aruba in making this conference especially memorable. Myrna Jansen also revealed that during their stay on the island over 200 travel agents took the ACE training and became Aruba Certified Experts.

The agents, who have traveled from every part of the United States to Aruba expressed they were quite impressed with the island, particularly in the "safety and the friendliness of the island residents." C.J. Crow of Great Southern Travel in Springfield Missouri also noted that in Aruba "There are no language barriers and dollars are readily accepted everywhere, which is a big plus over a number of destinations, Mexico in particular."

Many of the agents are staying beyond the conference's five days, and those that had to depart immediately after expressed regret that they were not able to stay longer, but Aruba will certainly see more of them in the future!